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Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 53964US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: SITZ, RICHARD G.

Application No.: 09/960132 Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: September 21, 2001 Examiner: Jennifer Kolb Michener

Title: DRYING METHOD FOR SELECTIVELY REMOVING VOLATILE
COMPONENTS FROM WET COATINGS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION | |
| To Fax No.: 703-872-9306 | |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: | |
| February 17, 2004 | Signed by: Carol Decaire |
| Date | Signed by: Carol Decaire |

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2003, having a reply due date of December 16, 2003, for which a two month extensions of time is requested to file a response by February 16, 2004. Since the extended due date falls on a Federal holiday, applicants are submitting this response on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 according to 37 CFR 1.7. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

A separate Petition for Extension Of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) and authorization to charge the extension of time fee to Assignee's deposit account is included with this Amendment.

Please charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.